

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A telecommunications system has a source base station (BS_S) and a destination base station (BS_D), and a handover unit (100) having a dynamic offset threshold determination unit (102) which establishes a dynamic offset threshold for starting soft handover. When the dynamic offset threshold for soft handover is exceeded, a preliminary portion of a handover sequence is initiated at the destination base station. The preliminary portion of the handover sequence is initiated so that time-critical handover sequence activities (such as L1 uplink synchronization) are well underway, if not completed, by the time the soft handover is actually needed.